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The Track Record
The International Bigfoot Society™ Newsletter
A subsidiary of the Western Bigfoot Society™
ISSUE #153 SEPTEMBER 2005
EDITOR RAY CROWE
4 INCH ORB, TEXTURE VISIBLE
NEAL BURGSTAHLER PHOTO
FROM OLYMPIC NAT PARK 9/4/05

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SAND SCULPTURE CONTEST
SASQUATCH INN - HARRISON
HOT SPRINGS, BC - 9/6-11/05
CANDYSCIIDTIDE
SHAFTEBURY
BREWING COMPANY
WEST COAST BEER
On Tap @ The Sasquatch
Okanagan Spring Pale Ale
Our Extra Special Pale Ale is a classic beer that is
copper-coloured, well-balanced and exceptionally smooth to drink.
It is brewed in strict adherence to the Bavarian Purity Law of 1516
Sleeman Honey Brown lager
It has been created and brewed in the same tradition of all
Sleeman beers. Honey Brown Lager uses all natural bee honey for
a smooth, full-bodied taste. It is brewed in the tradition of cottage
breweries at the turn of the century using all natural ingredients
and crystal clear well water.
Shaftebury Wet Coast Wheat Ale
It takes 5 ingredients and at least 20 days to make this distinctive
Brilliant Lager. We use only the best malted barley, wheat, hops,
yeast and water. Golden and somewhat hazy in colour, this beer is
light on the palate and best enjoyed with a wedge of lemon.
Sasquatch Stout, Heineken
Budweiser, Canadian
Coors Light
These fine Okanagan Spring, Shaftebury, &
Sleeman products are all available at the new
Sasquatch Liquor Store. Just follow the boardwalk!
SHAFTEBURY
WET

COAST
CRAFT BREWED IN BC
WHEAT ALE
BF AT INN
SKETCH BY CLIFF OLSON
BIGFOOT WITH DEAD SOW BEAR

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The Track Record
The International Bigfoot SocietyTM Newsletter
A subsidiary of the Western Bigfoot Society™
Issue 153 September Summary, 2005, $20.00 year (10 issues), $30.00 foreign, post paid. There is no November or December summary, but Specials may be published, 225 [AD] NE 30th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97124-7055; Phone: (503) [AD] 640-6581 Email: RayCrowe@netzero.net, Vice President: Patti Reinhold, 1086 46th Ave, Sweet Home, OR 97386 541- [AD] 367-2359. Other board members: Terry Reams, Keith Ardinger, Diane Demers. The WBS is a tax-exempt, non profit organization, 501(c)3 your tax-deductible donations are appreciated #93-1181554 Copyright Sept 2005 InternationalBigfootSociety.com Domain name.Webmaster Robert Murdock; robert@digitaledge.com
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* REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.
MEETING
Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz.
Patti Reinhold informs me that our get-together at Longbow for 2006 will be the weekend of Sept 9, 10, and depart on 11th. We will bill the gathering as Bigfoot Daze this time.
NOTE: As there are a lot of unpublished news clips and other longer articles, will issue Track Record Specials in November and December (#'s 155 and 156). Notify me if

you do not want these issues mailed to you please.
MEETINGS
The September keynote speaker was Neal Burgstahler, whom we heard speak at the Pow Wow July 10th at Longbow. The talk and film was so interesting that I invited Neal to do the talk again at the regular meeting at the Home Plate, so our other members could hear it. The talk and film concerned the strange orbs that often occur during Bigfoot sightings.
Neal mentioned that physicist Dr Steven Hawkings often had lectures that mentioned that he believed Bigfoot was of
KEEP YOUR SKEPTICALS
ON PLEASE
the paranormal. Neal said there are possibly a million interdimensional Bigfeet n the US. The electro-magnetic entities are intelligent orbs, and like birds, fly around. There are seven different phases of the BF orbs. 1. flesh and blood appearances 2. shape shifters that could become human-like 3. spirit phase where would could not see but hear their presence by breaking branches or heavy footfalls. 4. can walk through brush without breaking or making noise 5. an infrared visible phase 6. double invisibility 7. a spirit-cloud phase as in an electrical cloud. At the Mollalla River, OR, last summer, Neal saw an orb zip down the road, giving off an electronic noise like a bee buzz.
The film, shot in the Olympics last July 4th, had a multitude of the floating orbs. One could see the stars in the background that slowly rotated with the earths motion, and even identify moths filmed in the IR camera. Neal would use a BF distress call or whistle to summon the orbs to him. The camera, a red light second generation night vision was plugged into his camcorder to get the images. There is a book Neal cited, "How to Photograph the Paranormal," that would be of help to others trying to get the same photographic results. Leonora Sweet PhD, Hampton Roads Publishing Co, inc, 2005, ISBN 1-57174-411-8.
* Cliff Olson introduced two visitors at the meeting, Jeff and Adam Rasch of Milwaukie to the group.
Jeff Rasch had taken a boat across Timothy Lake, near Mt Hood, OR. Across from the Timothy Lake Campground, a Bigfoot was seen at the timberline at 5PM a week ago (Labor Day Sunday). Bigfoot was in view for about 30 seconds as seen by his girlfriend Jennifer (the only one who saw it). It was after 5PM and close to Little Crater Lake. It came through a clearing and walked in perfect strides. It was huge, like Chiquile O'Neal (basketball-spelling?) and about 150 yards away, took big strides, was black and hairy.
Cliff also noted that a year ago at a horse camp across from Timothy Campground, on the east side of the lake, a

Bigfoot was seen hanging around the horses.
* Adam Rasch commented that near Molalla and Beavercreek, Upper Highland area, 11 years ago, he and companion had BB guns in the summer and were walking along a brushy creek. At a swampy area saw big footprints. They were dried out, old. Two dead dogs were found in a nearby den area. It was old also, maybe something had slept there. The big 16 inch tracks were everywhere.
* Cliff Olson then gave us a most amazing report. He had been contacted by the Gulf Coast BF Assn. to investigate a possible Bigfoot film in the possession of a Jim W. of Hood River. He and another investigator (wishes to remain
1.

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OLSON SKETCH OF BIGFOOT
WITH SHINY OBJECT ON CHEST
TREE
[AD] $1
BEAR Cubs
OLSON SKETCH OF TWO BEAR
CUBS ON HIND FEET WATCHING
ACTION. ANOTHER BF BY TREE
2.1
Spump
W

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anonymous) met Jim and his girlfriend Joline L. in her trailer house and viewed the amazing film taken three years ago on the slopes of Mount Hood, OR, while hunting. Jim was amazed to see three fidgety deer staring into a forest bowl and took a newly purchased video camera out and started filming. The deer were unaffected by the presence of the humans, intent on staring at some action further away.
The shaky poorly defined amateur film shows three adult Bigfeet creatures, not moving. One was crouched over a dead light colored bear sow, the nose visible. Hair on the arms in blowing in the wind (the only motion seen). Another was just standing, watching them, and there was a chirping sound, heard above the hard blowing of the wind. Around the neck of one was a bright shiny object that was glistening...it was not natural. There were two bear cubs standing on their hind feet nearby, in the open and very conspicuous.
The deer must have seen one hell of a fight...the dead bear the result.
Film was taken on the Lolo Pass Road, NW of Mt Hood, [AD] at about 1400 feet, in the early afternoon of 1999-2000 on

July 1. The bird like chirps were said to be about 200 yards away.
The couple want to cash in on the film. I'll try contacting and see if we can view the film ourselves...and maybe help them in their contacts, if they haven't done so all ready.
BIGFOOT ACTIVITY REPORTS
* Credit: Michael Newton, eyeofnewt@att.net
Newnan (GA) Times-Herald, By ALEX MCRAE alex@newnan.com September 18, 2005 Robards' thinking about the possibility of strange, hairy critters in north Coweta began to change on Aug. 22, when her son, Jeff, 18, had a strange encounter while returning to the Happy Valley home he shares with his folks.
He had just dropped his sister off at her east Coweta home and was heading west on Cedar Creek Road near its intersection with Happy Valley Road just after 2:30 a.m.
As he approached the stop sign, Jeff was startled to see a huge, hairy creature strolling down the middle of Cedar Creek Road towards his vehicle, according to Donna Robards.
"He said it was big and hairy and walking upright," says Donna Robards. "At first he thought it might have been a bear, but he didn't stick around to see. When I asked him about it later, he said it couldn't have been a bear because the face was flat and didn't have a snout like a bear. He didn't know what it was, and I didn't either," says Donna Robards.
Three nights later on Aug. 25, just before midnight, Donna Robards got to see just what her son had described. She had worked late in LaGrange and was heading north on Happy Valley Circle towards her home. When she reached the Cedar Creek Road intersection, she saw not one, but two of the creatures standing in the road just yards ahead.
She slammed on the brakes and skidded to a stop within 20 feet of the hairy pair.
She says the larger of the two creatures was eight feet tall and covered with coarse black hair. The other was a foot shorter and its hair was reddish-brown in color, Robards says.
When Robards screeched to a stop, she says the smaller one ambled into the woods west of Happy Valley Circle. The big one, however, turned and stared right at her.
"I thought oh, dear God, that thing is going to come in the car after me," she says. "And I was scared to death."
After what seemed like an eternity the larger creature followed the first one into the woods and Robards headed home as fast as she could, an awful image imprinted on her memory forever.
"It wasn't human, but you could call it ape-like,"

Robards says. "It stood upright but the hair on its face was shorter than on the rest of its body. And the eyes didn't bulge like an ape's. They were set backlike human eyes.'
* Cliff Olson called and said that Sept 5, miners from Yakima and Richland (Bob, Neil, and Kevin) told of being at the Monument Mine (hard rock), Baker Co., OR, (near Granite) and had rocks thrown at them. This had happened the year before also (late Sept). Football sized Rocks were thrown about 100 yards, and weighed about ten pounds. The creature was not seen, but heavy footfalls circled their tent one night.
* Keep Skepticals on: A call came from Elkton, VA, 9/8/05. In the Shenandoah Valley. The witness had caught an 8 foot Bigfoot in a bear trap. He had it in a pen, he said, and wanted to know what to do with it. The creatures foot was supposedly damaged. This report didn't ring true, referred it to Bill Dranganis.
From Jim, 9/21 Friday I received confirmation of an odd Bigfoot tale. Dates are missing but are easy to track. Late seventies, Topsham, Maine. The story goes that during a graveside service the several mourners were startled to see a hair covered creature, very man-like, walk out of the woods and enter a shack. It was tall enough that it had to stoop to clear the doorway. The odd thing is that it was carrying a club! I asked if it was a stick or branch and was told, "No it was a Club, like the Flinstones"! The shack is gone but I will visit the area as I was told the beastie was following a well established trail. Hoaxes are not unknown in Maine, which is really stupid as we are one of the more heavily armed states with a hunting tradition. This is the fifth sasquatch tale I have gleaned from the Bath-Brunswick area, unfortunately they are all years old.
* Credit: Michael Newton, eyeofnewt@att.net
Bigfoot in Texas, From Texas Monthly: Oct. 2005 Monster Inc.; Nighttime field trips, gripping testimonials, scientific seminars: In East Texas, the hunt for Bigfoot is serious business. Katy Vine, Reporter
IT WASN'T AS IF DARYL COLYER'S encounter with Bigfoot in May 2004 was a chance meeting. The gym-fit 44-year-old banker from Lorena had actively gone looking for the creature one Saturday evening along the banks of the Trinity River, where he'd heard that a seven-foot-tall ape like being had been seen wandering a few months before. He'd even talked his beautiful brunette wife, Dalinda, into IBS

[PAGE BREAK]

going with him, and the two had set out together toward a stretch of the river sixty miles northeast of Houston. But he still wasn't prepared for what he saw that day.

For Daryl, who until this past August volunteered regularly as an investigator for an international cybergroup known as the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO), the expedition was nothing out of the ordinary. As one of the few Texas members of the group, he'd gone on many of these searches in the previous year, following up on reported Bigfoot sightings in the Texas-Oklahoma area. He enjoyed it; he'd been fascinated with the idea of Bigfoot for as long as he could remember. As a boy in Atlanta, in the Piney Woods of East Texas, he'd heard stories about the thing his father called the Burton Bottom Creek Monster. He had listened to tales of an animal that shadowed locals in the woods, one that screamed like a woman and made the hair on your arm straighten like toothpicks. And although he'd left the state in 1985 to become an intelligence analyst for the Air Force, these memories had never strayed far from his mind. When he returned to Texas, in 1990, his interest was rekindled, and a few years later, he sat down and Googled "Bigfoot." "I wanted to solve a mystery for myself," he explains. "I wasn't going to be an armchair skeptic."

But since joining the BFRO, in mid-2003, Daryl hadn't seen Bigfoot himself. He had spent many hours poring over Bigfoot stories, though; he didn't want to be caught unprepared. So when he and Dalinda spotted a trail by the riverside that matched the description from one of the BFRO's sighting reports, he felt his usual tinge of excitement. He pulled over. The sun was setting along the tree-lined path, which ran parallel to the river about fifty yards below. He hurried down it while Dalinda tagged along some thirty yards behind, her high heels no match for the mud. The path gradually curved to the left, and Daryl disappeared. Dalinda bent over, focusing on something that had slithered across her foot.

And suddenly, there it was, on the trail: A reddish-brown, hairy thing, about five and a half feet tall. Daryl froze as he watched it hop across the path once, then twice, before disappearing into the woods. He stared into the

"Did you see that?" he hollered.

trees.

Dalinda looked up from her feet. "See what?"

* Credit: Vance Orchard, orch@bmi.net

Subject; A little bigfoot? 8 Sep 2005

Hi...just got off the phone with friend and neophyte Bigfoot hunter, reporting he had seen a possible baby bigfoot on the South Fork Touchet River Road of of Dayton (WA) a few miles...at 6 p.m. today as he was going home (a few miles up the road from the sighting) he saw this figure of "a little man about 2 1/2 to 3 feet tall with round head and shiny black hair all over body..." He said it happened pretty fast and although the thing had its back

to him, it apparently heard his car for it suddenly darted under a barbed wire fence and into the brush...It seems entirely possible that he has seen a small bigfoot for we have had reports in the past of people seeing smaller ones with a big one, etc. I followed tracks for miles over a cultivated field which were three sizes and the smaller one kept disappearing then reappearing so we figured it was a small one on its mother's back, dropping off from time to time, etc.

This will be my column in Waitsburg Times for next week and I will email you a copy of what I write....Vance

* Vance Orchard, orch@bmi.net SEPT. 21

RAMBLER TO THE TIMES ... Hobby Meets a New Job, By Vance Orchard

Ever since Brian Smith of Walla Walla nearly hit a Bigfoot as he drove the Mill Creek Road one evening several years back, he has been a seeker of the critter.

So earnestly has he plied that hobby in the past several years since his "up close" encounter, Smith has gained a wide spread reputation for being the foremost Bigfoot hunter in these parts. He has utilized modern electronic devices while doing it, too.

You want to know where is the best place to go look for a Bigfoot around here, he'll tell you and might even offer to you there. I recall a month or so ago, when a TV crew take

was here to do a documentary about our elusive woods creature, they asked Smith and he took 'em to a spot and sure enough sizable footprints galore!

Now, the seeker of Bigfoot has announced a new business he has launched, but a business centered at his home so he can spend more time in the Bigfoot seeking.

The new business bears a sizable name (to go with the big guy?).... Bigfoot Dryer System Cleaning and Chimney Sweep Co.

The service Smith is offering is one in which he goes to your home cleans out one's clothes dryer system, ridding it of excess lint, a sizable accumulation of which can and does occur in many home, he notes.

"It's the No. 3 cause of household appliance fires," he added. "Actually, it is the No. 1 hidden fire cause....a householder often just does not realize the danger until it happens."

"Excess lint builds up in the dryer," he went on, "and the dryer over heats and when this happens the dryer catches fire and if not extinguished, one can lose the laundry room and possibly the house."

Smith says he is also offering the basic chimney sweep service because "a clean chimney is a good fire preventive.

Smith has chosen to base his new business at his home, so he can devote more time to Bigfoot hunting, he noted. And, he named it for the object of his search which he

acknowledges is his "main hobby."
This unusual hobby has led Smith down some unique pathways but none more so that right here at home...Here is a sample of some of that from a news item I did back in April 26, 2001:
A chance to "sit a spell" with Brian Smith of Walla Walla was to get caught up a bit on what's going on around here with the Bigfoot situation.
Well, we learned there has been some activity since the sighting around mid-December near Rooks Park on Mill Creek of nearly a mile of big footprints by Harley Michaelis of Walla Walla.
Smith is a leader of the group of local people who have taken more than a passing interest in this Bigfoot thing around here, While others have been involved in this for many years, his is the first efforts at utilizing so much that is now available in electronic gear. A video camera is a point to make at the outset. Smith doesn't go into the woods without one.

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So, since late February-early March, Smith has video taped more than 40 big tracks in an area that proved as fruitful a year ago: at the top of Blacksnake Ridge above Dixie, a town 10- miles east of Walla Walla.
"They come out of South Dry Creek," he says, "then drop off into Blue Creek. The tracks were about 16 inches long and had a 54-inch stride."
A week later, Smith was investigating the report of a woman having seen a Bigfoot as it sauntered across an open side hill some 500 yards or so from her. This was while she was in a pickup truck with a couple of friends as they cruised the Blacksnake Ridge road on the lookout for elk sign.
"The party in the truck stopped to use their binoculars to look for elk," Smith recounted from the woman's report of the incident. "She said that as they stopped and her friends were looking with their binoculars for elk, she looked the other way and saw the Bigfoot as it walked across the open hillside.
"She said she saw it walking for some time as it strode along, struck an old logging road, then stepped over it and went into the brush, and out of sight. She says she saw it clearly enough that she recalls the pronounced stride and swinging of the arms as it walked along.
"She also says it was at least eight feet tall and certainly was a Bigfoot and not a bear. And, she said it was brownish black in color.
"Then, she turned to her two friends and shouted: 'Hey, I just saw a Bigfoot!' But, they just brushed her off and

kept on looking for elk on their side of the pickup. And missed seeing something that was more exciting than an elk!"
Got a report about a Bigfoot you'd like to share with [AD] Smith? Call him at 525-0160.
* Credit: Loren Coleman, lcoleman@maine.rr.com from
Europe: Bigfoot Family Terrifies Campers in Crimea
On Sunday, August 21, 2005, a group of 12 campers, 7 adults and 5 children, were hiking on the Demedzhi Plateau, between North Demedzhi Mountain and Stol-Gora (Russian for Table-Top--J.T.) Mountain when they encountered a family or tribe of Kapustin, a hairy man-beast common to the Crimea and the Caucasus and similar to North America's Bigfoot or Australia's Yowie.
"On that Sunday, Ivan S., 21, and his group of 12 tourists were spending their second day camped on the plateau between North Demedzhi Mountain and Stol-Gora Mountain," Crimean ufologist Anton A. Anfalov reported, "The night was very bright with a full moon.'
"The kids went to sleep early. The adults stayed up a while. Ivan's assistant, Sasha (Russian nickname for Aleksander--J.T.) and several of the men went outside of the camp to answer a call of nature. When they returned, they looked terrified, trembling with fear and nearly scared to death." "And then everyone heard a frightful growl near the camp.'
44
Then we went back out to the scene, all dressed in a greenish military camouflage,' Sasha was quoted as saying, 'I was armed with the camp axe. In that moment, we saw strange creatures, looking like naked men, quite nearby."
"There were three creatures,' Sasha said, 'And they were about 6 meters (20 feet) away from us. The hairy humanoids were 2 to 2.5 meters in height (about 6 feet, 6 inches to 8 feet tall-J.T.). The true height of these creatures is hard to estimate because they were all crouched down and balancing themselves on their fists, like large apes. All three were growling at us. Their faces were very hairy, almost without wrinkles, and their eyes were not shiny at all. Their necks were set or positioned very low, even among their children, almost as if they had no necks. From behind, they had something like humps" on the spine.
"Sasha was standing closer and saw that the hairy creatures had some kind of lighter outgrowth, like light fur for their necks and eyebrows." "Witnesses said they could not tell if the creatures were male or female."
11
"The creatures were highly aggressive. The witnesses were terribly scared. The beasts' noise woke the children who "fell into a hysterical state. Girls were crying and screaming, 'Call someone!'"

The standoff lasted for about 45 minutes. "Sasha then said he couldn't wait any more. Finally, the creatures turned and bounded away," with a strange ape- like bouncing leap.
The campers spent a sleepless night around their fire. "People were trembling from fear and waiting for the dawn. In the morning, Ivan and the others went back to the site but unfortunately did not find any traces of the mysterious night visitors within the dense beech forest. The land was covered with thick layers of fallen leaves." (See the Ukrainian newspaper Situation for September 8, 2005. Many thanks to Anton A. Anfalov and Prina Shahno for this news story.) UFO ROUNDUP Volume 10, Number 38 September 21, 2005 Editor: Joseph Trainor
*From Oliver DeCobert, France, concerns hair sample from Tenn submitted 2004, source May Green
(1) the hair analysis is now completely finished: as I wrote you in June, the laboratory found no human origin and sent the sample to a specialist in animal hair identification. It was not possible to find from what animal it is.
MISCELANEOUS
* Credit: Loren Coleman Texas BF Conf. 21 Aug 2005
"There was no Bigfoot after all." I'm not surprised.
The grand notice that Tom Biscardi's associates had captured a Bigfoot - nationally broadcast on Coast to Coast AM with George Noory, was empty news. Biscardi fumbled along in the ten minutes he was being interviewed by Noory, first saying it was 800 pounds, then telling Noory that he hadn't said how much it weighed, only that it was over 8 feet tall. The capture of the century, but we were to learn that Biscardi hadn't even seen it, although it was suppose to be in captivity for a week? The medical staff was arguing over the treatment of the "Sth Wonder of the World," as he called it. But he knew it was 17 years old?
The Tom Biscardi-supportive editor of the Happy Camp News, Linda Martin, is now spreading the amazing revelation on her blog: http://bigfootsightings.org/?p=53 Martin writes in part:"Biscardi was scammed by a woman in Nevada. There was no Bigfoot after all." Continuing on the uncritical path Editor Martin has been taking, regarding the Biscardi actions, she writes: "I heard Tom filmed an apology from the woman's husband, and I hope he adds it to the videostream! It's all part of the story of this expedition. Very exciting stuff if you ask me." Okay, 100 HISS Tage Humect

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we have to ask. Will Biscardi be giving a refund to all those $19.95 and $59.95 subscribers to his site? Or are we to understand that he now is going to charge people to watch a videotape of the apology? I'm sorry to repeat this,

but Biscardi was less than trustworthy when he was trying to peddle those allegedly and so obviously fake films of Ivan Marx's Bigfoot in the 1970s, so why should we believe anything he offers - whether old frames from those films as new, or exaggerated promises and claims ofthe capture of Bigfoot?

I just hate to see the fine people that he is leaving in his wake...whether in Happy Camp or elsewhere. Buyer beware! Loren Coleman

* Hello friends; The 2005 East Coast Bigfoot Conference has been deemed a success. The early count on the registration sign in sheets and admission at the door show we had well over 300 people and at times standing room only with folks lined up down the stairway to the entrance. It is all in large part to everyone who contributed to the conference through hard work, planning and preparing, or by donating to the auction or by volunteering your time at the conference to help in any way. Many thanks to those who in some way or form had a hand in making our 2005 event a success. Special thanks goes out to the fantastic line up of speakers we had this year. Rick, Scott, Bob and Stan really made the event shine with phenomenal presentations. For those who were not able to attend this years event, I am afraid that you missed what could be the last East Coast Bigfoot Conference. I have decided not to hold another next year and at this point I am not certain when and if it will happen again. Perhaps another PBS member will take over the challenge of producing one of these events.

any rate, thank you all again for whatever part may
At
have had in making the event a success.

I look forward to Craig Woolheaters Texas Bigfoot
in a few weeks in Jefferson Texas
Conference coming up

and look forward to seeing many old friends and putting faces with the names of those who I have corresponded with over these many years. With warmest regards and much appreciation. Eric Altman

Director Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society

* credit: Ben Blake danegeld2@msn.com

Scientists Find Skull of Human Ancestor August 22, 2005

TBILISI, Georgia Archaeologists in the former Soviet republic of Georgia have unearthed a skull they say is 1.8 million years old - part of a find that holds the oldest traces of humankind's closest ancestors ever found in Europe.

The skull from an early member of the genus Homo was found Aug. 6 and unearthed Sunday in Dmanisi (search), an area about 60 miles southeast of the capital, Tbilisi, said David Lortkipanidze, director of the Georgian National Museum, who took part in the dig.

In total, five bones or fragments believed to be about the same age have been found in the area, including a jawbone discovered in 1991,
Lortkipanidze said by telephone. The skull, however, was in the best condition of the five, and was sent to the museum for further study.
"Practically all the remains have been found in one place. This indicates that we have found a place of settlement of primitive people," he said of the spot, where archaeologists have been working since 1939.
Researchers said the findings in Georgia were about 1 million years older than any widely accepted pre-human remains in Western Europe and were the oldest found outside Africa. The discoveries have provided additional evidence that human ancestors left Africa a half-million years or more earlier than scientists had previously thought.
A well-preserved skull from the Dmanisi site would be "very important" in helping to track the development and migration of human ancestors, said Brian Richmond, a professor at the Center for the Advanced Study of Hominid Paleobiology (search) at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Study of the skull could help scientists understand "what it is about these individuals that allowed them to move outside of Africa"-how their bodies and tool-use advanced to enable them to move more freely, Richmond said. It could also help determine the species of the remains at the site, Homo erectus or Homo habilis, he said.
Million-year-old fossils of hominids extinct creatures of the extended ancestral family of modern humans have been found in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, but not in Western Europe. Georgia is south of the Caucasus Mountains, east of the Black Sea and northeast of Turkey, but is considered part of Europe.
Previously, Lortkipanidze's discoveries of bone fragments contradicted a theory among anthropologists that the primitive humans who left Africa were big, well-armed and smart. The human-like specimens that Lortkipanidze found were smaller and slender with a smaller brain, but still capable of making stone tools.
The Dmanisi site is located between two rivers. Researchers also have found a wealth of animal remains from the same period, including elephants, gazelles, rhinos, sabre-toothed cats, giraffes, bears, ostriches, wolves and rodents.
* OUTDOORS, HENRY MILLER August 25, 2005 Salem (OR) Statesman; The following text is verbatim from the "Monday Morning Report for Aug. 15" submitted to headquarters by regional offices of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The item's lead-in is "Sasquatches."
"Northeast Region staff responded to a landowner's

report of a sasquatch sighting in the Upper Grande Ronde River area."The landowner's chief concern was whether he would be in violation of any game laws if he shot Bigfoot." As non-human primates, sasquatches are under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Dept of Agriculture, not ODFW."So now you know who to call if you find one hiding behind that cabbage in the
[AD] garden.hmiller@Statesman Journal.com or (503) 399-6725
* Credit: Michael Newton, Texas "chupa" caught? 26 Aug
From NBC-TV, Channel 5 (Dallas, TX): 25 Aug.
2005 Farmer May Have Caught Legendary 'Chupacabra'
Mysterious Animal Kills Chickens, Turkeys
COLEMAN, Texas A Texas farmer may have found what some would call a "chupacabra," a legendary animal known for sucking the blood out of goats.
6.
IBS #133

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Reggie Lagow set a trap last week after a number of his chickens and turkeys were killed.
What he found in his trap was a mix between a hairless dog, a rat and a kangaroo.
The mystery animal has been sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife in hopes ofdetermining what it is.
* From Vance Orchard, orch@bmi.net Rambler, 9 Sep
RAMBLER TO THE TIMES ... Ray Crowe,
Bigfooter By Vance Orchard (As it appeared in the 9-8-05 issue of The Times of Waitsburg)
There are a couple of pluses for my living in Forest Grove, Ore., for the summer months. One is certainly the Bigfoot tracker, Ray Crowe, of nearby Hillsboro, who publishes a monthly (except November and December) newsletter relating sightings and other Bigfoot-related matters.
Crowe will be remembered by local Bigfoot people for the time he and his wife, the late Theata Crowe, stopped in and visited with us at one of the weekly Bigfoot sessions at the Blue Mountain Mall. The Crowes were at the time doing some Northwest Bigfoot research and made an overnight stop here at a time when the creature was getting a lot of attention.
I have renewed the friendship struck up from that first meeting in Walla Walla and we have had a couple of lunch meetings in Hillsboro. Another Bigfoot tracker, one who is out in the woods a lot as he seeks to pin down this elusive being, is Joe Beelart of West Linn, Ore. Beelart is no stranger to many Bigfoot buffs across the U.S., since he takes an active interest in the subject by way of the Bigfoot Yahoo forum on the Internet.
Crowe's observations about the Bigfoot matter coincide

with much of what I have concluded following many years of local research. One point sure is that of "why no bodies?"

We agree that if something dies in the woods, a lot of other somethings out there consume the evidence in short time. The devouring somethings include most everything alive, from insects to other animals.

But, Crowe also holds the viewpoint that if a Bigfoot dies, others pack off the body. I'm not a bit sure of that one, but I do recall the late Paul Freeman's having said he saw "one or two others" when he had his 1982 and later sightings. So, that being the case, one could certainly believe other Bigfoots likely would be near by and come carry off their deceased relative.

Crowe gives all comers a shot at the printed page when they bring forth their stories of sightings, he says. "I give 'em all a fair shake." Crowe became interested in the Bigfoot story in 1991 when he was running a used book store in Portland. A friend told him of the Indians' having long time belief in the creature's presence. And, like so many others, Crowe was at first dubious. Finding tracks, hair and broken tree limbs on his first search pretty well started him on the road to being convinced something's out there in the woods.

Crowe maintains a scientific approach in his dealings. He doesn't have a college degree but has studied the Missoula floods which saw melting glaciers in the north sweep through all of eastern Washington thence down to the Willamette and up it. He has presided over the prestigious Geological Society of the Oregon Country and heads up currently the International Bigfoot Society.

Another Crowe theory with which I completely agree is that Bigfoot is a nocturnal creature... living for the most part in the dark of night, although occasionally spotted in daylight hours. Which reminds me, many of those reported sightings are in my two books, "Bigfoot of the Blues" and "The Walla Walla Bigfoot," available at Earthlight Books, 321 E. Main, or at the Ft. Walla Walla Museum gift shop.

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Reports of Bigfoot sightings are springing up all over the eastern U.S. and Crowe is giving these reports a lot of in his "The Track Record" newsletter. If interested in subscribing to here is Crowe's address: 225 NE 30th, Hillsboro, OR 97124. His email: RayCrowe@netzero.net. Subscribing to the "Track Record" will surely keep one well posted on the Bigfoot matter.

While on the subject of Bigfoot, I am reminded of my recent book-signing stint at Fort Walla Walla Museum, where the two Bigfoot books named above plus a couple others, were the focal point. I had an opportunity to discuss books and the region with several people, making it an

enjoyable afternoon. One who took up most time was a man who was an outspoken skeptic of the whole Bigfoot matter and went on at length, although I believe I refuted most, of not all, of his skeptical assertions.
Addressing this skepticism in most adroit fashion, was the following excerpt from a discussion in the Bigfoot Yahoo forum on the internet. The writer was Chris Louden of Ardmore, Louisiana.
"If these animals are out there, and I believe they are, they are obviously very intelligent. They have learned to adapt and stay away from humans.
"If they have observed humans for any amount of time, they realize that we (humans) are a pretty destructive bunch. Likely the first time they encountered mankind, people were ripping up trees and tearing up ground to build something.
"They may feel their very existence is in jeopardy. We tend to steamroll our way through wilderness areas in the name of "progress" and leave housing developments, strip malls, and whatever other ugly boxes we can come up with."
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* From Vance Orchard orch@bmi.net (As it appeared Feb. 2, 2004, in The Times of Waitsburg, Wash.) By Vance Orchard; WALLA WALLA It sort of rang my
Bigfoot bell the other day when I read a letter from Ron Douglas of nearby Dayton who enclosed a very interesting item when he reported his decision to join the ranks of Sasquatch seekers.
In his recent letter, Douglas mentioned that he intends to spend some time in the areas where most sightings of bigfoot have been reported, but I had to assume where he meant as he didn't specify. I'd have to guess it is territory pretty familiar to Douglas, a guy who has been over much of the nearby Blue Mountains, as a youth and later into his adult years.
The Blues became quite familiar to Douglas, more so as he assisted his father, the late George Douglas, to cowboy a herd of cattle ranging in the hills from the Tucannon River to the South Fork Touchet. They had five camps throughout that territory, for the necessary overnight

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stops. His first experience of this kind was the summer of 1943. "It was a glorious summer for me," he noted. "I was only nine years old."
Douglas was to spend four more such summers with his father before death claimed the elder Douglas in 1960. Douglas says he has been "sorta caught up in the bigfoot

thing" for some time but is especially eager to devote more time to an earnest search. With that determination came the recent decision to buy a camera to "have along just in case...."

"It kind of gets in your blood," he opined.

I would have to say Ron Douglas seems perfectly adapted to getting up in the Blues for a serious hunt for a bigfoot.

And, a lot of us are wishing him nothing but the best of luck to go with the rest of it.

But, back to that bell-ringing when I read Douglas' letter.

A big argument.

... some will say, the only one used by skeptics of the bigfoot issue is the lack of any bones of the creature.

"If such a thing exist s, how come nobody has ever found any bones?" I've heard asked time and again and likely will continue to hear.

Maybe the truth is that we have had the evidence now and then but it has slipped through the cracks. Another suggestion of this crack-slippage came to light in the letter from Douglas. It was a reminder of something similar which I reported many years ago while doing roving reporter duty for the UB.

In his letter, Douglas tells of finding some ancient wheat which, although said to be two hundred years old but germinated when he planted them. That story filled most of the single-type written page he sent me, but the bigfoot bell rang when I read of another item he found on his trip to the Moses Lake area several years ago. In his search for irrigation pipe he called on an elderly man who told him a highly intriguing story while the pipe transaction was underway.

"My nephew," said the old fellow, "was digging around in a cliff-dweller cave in New Mexico when he came upon an old worn moccasin measuring 22 inches in length. Soon afterward, he found the skull (apparently of a human) which measured 17 inches from the fore part of the face to the back of the head."

Douglas' story had only one more sentence about this remarkable find in a New Mexico cavern.

""The old fellow said he was down (to New Mexico) to visit the nephew and took the lower jaw bone from this skull and put it up astraddle of his own face and he could still put a finger between it and his cheek on either side."

Now, that is a whopper of a jawbone, indicating a real whopper of a human!

And, so it was with a jawbone included in a collection of arrowheads I encountered on a visit to Boardman, Ore., in 1966. Among his collection of items fund along the Columbia River's shoreline near his home the resident

showed me three jawbones, two of normal size but in the middle was this huge one, dwarfing the normal-sized pair. Some who had seen his collection told the man the jaw must have come from a human about eight or nine feet tall.
8.
Were the New Mexico cave skull and the Boardman jaw from a Bigfoot or just a couple of outlandishly huge humans?
...
In any case how come thee haven't been put in a museum and catalogued for scientific study.
study which
might answer the skeptics?
The answer I have for this self-posed question is that the skull and the jawbone have "just slipped through the cracks."
In my collection of stories about the Bigfoot story are one or two about huge human-like jaws and teeth having been turned over to museums only to have gotten lost in the maze some museums find themselves in.
* David Murphy; I am writing the Authorized Biography of Roger Patterson and have collected over 300 photos and documents in my time spent with Pat Patterson. It will be available in early 2006 and will have many never before published photos and documents. I am taking non payment order lists right now. Those who give me there contact info. will be offered the book at least two weeks before the official release date. If you need any filler for your newsletter, I am happy to get all of the publicity I can. Your readers can write to; Roger Patterson book 2006 9115 Gunn Ave., Whittier, Ca 90605 Raiders85@charter.net
* From Michael Newton, Mothman festival; From the Herald-Dispatch (Huntington, WV): 19 Sept. 2005
Capitalizing on mystery Organizers hope to keep expanding Point Pleasant event By Nicole Young
POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. -- Whether a horrifying monster or a really good hoax, the legend of the Mothman has been tacked on to this small West Virginia town since the 1960s. Now in its fourth year, the Mothman Festival in Point Pleasant has continued to capitalize on the rich history and mystery of the Mothman himself. With a goal of jump-starting the town's economy, the festival was originally a way to capitalize on the "Mecca of history and genealogy," in the area, said Hilda Austin, executive director for the Mason County Area Chamber of Commerce. Now, people from as far as New York, Canada and even England came to the town this weekend with one thing in mind -- to learn about and maybe even catch a glimpse of the legendary Mothman and his "glowing red eyes," she said. The movie, "The Mothman Prophecies" (released in 2002 and starring Richard Gere and Debra Messing) brought a lot of attention to the town and allowed

the first festival to be thrown together at the last minute, said organizer and Mothman author Jeff Wamsley. From there, the festival has grown each year. Organizers hope to expand the festival in the coming years, possibly with a parade and more speakers. The festival draws young and old alike with memorabilia from the movie to a hay ride of the of the area where the Mothman was first sighted to the authors and speakers on the Mothman. "Locals are surprised at the success of the festival," he said. "They are so used to the whole story, so used to the attention, but we are gaining more local support." Many visitors to Point Pleasant for the festival keep coming back because they enjoy the laidback atmosphere and friendliness of the people, Austin said. "We just wanted to do something different because we care," she said. "There are a lot of skeptics in the area, but also a lot of true believers." Sisters

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Melanie Dudding and Kathy Jeffers of Pomeroy, Ohio, along with mother Shirley Simmons, returned to the festival out of intrigue. The sisters remember hearing the story of the Mothman growing up. "I remember as a child, it frightened me to death," Dudding said. "We are all interested in things like this, and we really want to see the Mothman but never have. It seems like only people who him."
really don't want to see him do, but we really want to see
MORE INTERESTING READING
Credit: Frank Castro in Alabama
Massachusetts: In the June, 1851 issue of Scientific American (volume 7, pages 298-299), a report was reprinted from the Boston Transcript about two parts of a metallic vase dynamited out of solid rock on Meeting House Hill, Dorchester, Massachusetts. When the two parts were put together, they formed a bellshaped vase, 4 1/2 inches high, 6 1/2 inches at the base, 2 1/2 inches at the top and an eighth of an inch thick. The metal of the vase was composed of an alloy of zinc and a considerable portion of silver. On the sides were six figures of a flower in bouquet arrangements, inlaid with pure silver, and around the lower part a vine, or wreath, also inlaid with silver. The chasing, carving, and inlaying are exquisitely done by the art of some unknown craftsman - yet this curiosity was blown out of solid pudding stone from 15 feet below the surface. Estimated age - 100,000 years. Unfortunately, the vase was circulated from museum to museum, and then disappeared. It is probably gathering dust in some curator's basement, its identity or source long forgotten.
Mississippi; The Choctaws preserve a dim tradition that, after crossing the Mississippi, they met a race of men whom

they called the Na-hon-lo, tall in stature and of fair complexion, who had emigrated from the sunrise. They had once been a mighty people, but were then few in number, and soon disappeared after the incoming of the Choctaws. This race of men were, according to tradition, tillers of the soil and peaceable. There had like wise been a race of cannibals, who feasted on the bodies of their enemies. They, too were giants, and utilized the mammoth as their burden bearers. They kept them closely herded, and as they devoured everything and broke down the forest, this was the origin of prairies

Nevada; In July, 1877, four prospectors were looking for gold and silver outcroppings in a desolate, hilly area near the head of Spring Valley, not far from Eureka, Nevada. Scanning the rocks, one of the men spotted something peculiar projecting from a high ledge. Climbing up to get a better look, the prospector was surprised to find a human leg bone and knee cap sticking out of solid rock. He called to his companions, and together they dislodged the oddity with picks. Realizing they had a most unusual find, the men brought it into Eureka, where it was placed on display. The stone in which the bones were embedded was a hard, dark red quartzite, and the bones themselves were almost black with carbonization - indicative of great age.

Lovelock, Nevada, is about eighty miles northeast of Reno. In 1911, in a cave near Lovelock, Nevada guano miners found mummies, bones, and artifacts belonging to a very tall people with red hair.

The Paiutes had legends about the "Si-Te-Cah." According to them the redheads were a warlike people, and a number of the Indian tribes joined together in a long war against them. Eventually, the Paiutes and their allies forced the Si-Te-Cah back to their home acres, near Mount Shasta in California. Archeologists seemed to take a negative approach to this 'history changing' discovery.. According to reports, two archeologists were sent to the scene to investigate this remarkable discovery.. One was from the University of California, and the other from New York. Rather than unearthing facts, they seemed more interested in burying them - literally; we are told the New Yorker ordered a mummy reburied on at least once occasion. Nor was anything published about the anomalies until 1929, seventeen years after their visit.

Paiutes says that the Si-Te-Cah literally lived on a lake in the basin overlooked by the cave. They lived on the lake to avoid harassments from the Indians, living on the rafts made of a fibrous water plant called tule. The name Si-Te-Cah means "tule eaters."

The Paiutes and the long-legged redheads did not get along well. The Indians accused the Si-Te-Cah of being cannibals, and waged war against them. The Si-Te-Cah fought back. After a long struggle, a coalition of tribes

trapped the remaining Si-Te-Cah in what is now called Lovelock Cave. When they refused to come out, the Indians piled brush before the cave mouth and set it aflame. The Si-Te-Cah were annihilated.
The local Indians tell stories of how the tribe exterminated those that had reddish hair.
All of this could be dismissed as another tall tale, but the case for the Si-Te-Cah does not rest on one man's research, or on remains found in one guano-filled cave. In 1931, mummies wee discovered in the Humboldt Lake bed. Eight years later, a mystery skeleton was unearthed on a ranch in the region. In each case, the skeletons or mummies were exceptionally tall and appeared to be connected with the strange lost race of redheads.
According to the Indians, the Si-Te-Cah built a pyramidal stone structure in New York Canyon, some miles
away in Churchill County. Unfortunately, the area is riven with earthquakes and the rocky ruins have largely tumbled over the years.
Not much has survived from the Si-Te-Cah. When the archeological establishment refused to take their existence seriously, a number of small, private museums arose to fill the gap. A fire in one of these destroyed an irreplaceable collection of bones, mummified remains, feathered artifacts, and shells carved with mysterious symbols. Today there is a museum in Lovelock with a display describing the cave finds, but it ignores allegations that the Si-Te-Cah were anything other than Indians. The Nevada State Historical Society has some artifacts from the cave, but again, there is not even a hint of controversy.
Minnesota; Seven skeletons were found in a burial mound near Clearwater Minnesota, in 1888. They had double rows of teeth in the upper and lower jaws and had been buried in a sitting position, facing the lake. The foreheads were unusually low and sloping, with prominent brows. (St. Paul Pioneer Press, June 29, 1888).The Indians tell the story of the legends of Allegewi: The oral traditions of the Delaware and the Sioux Indians tell of a race of "great stature, but cowardly" with whom they entered into conflict. The Allegheny River and Mountains are named after the Allegewi, but the Iroquois Confederacy drove the

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giants out of their strong, walled cities, and the Sioux finished them off when they attempted to relocate in what is now Minnesota.
Ten skeletons "of both sexes and of gigantic size" were taken from a mound at Warren, Minnesota, 1883. (St. Paul Pioneer Press, May 23, 1883)

The skeleton of a huge man was uncovered at the Beckley farm, Lake Koronis, Minnesota; while at Moose Island and Pine City, bones of other giants came to light. (St. Paul Globe, Aug. 12, 1896).

Misssissippi; The Choctaw of Mississippi,has a legend of being invaded by a race of red and blond haired, white-skinned giants, who bore 'sharp clubs' and axes and wore a extra thick skin, which made them impenetrable by their arrow, spears and war clubs. .The Indians called them Nahullo, or giants who had horns. When you put all the descriptions together, it seems like a race of giants may have been Norsemen wearing their tradition horned helmets and plates of armor THE DEEP DWELLERS (published online, in NEXUS magazine, and in CCCC),

MISSOURI; On an outcrop of greyish-blue crinoidal limestone about 200 feet wide and extending along the west bank of the Mississippi for 3 miles just south of St. Louis, are a number of mantrack impressions which a century ago could be observed during low-water stages. The early French explorers along the river were the first to note their existence, and ever since they have created a heated controversy. The first scientific observation of the prints was reported by Henry Schooleraft in The American Journal of Science (volume V), for 1822, and he described them as, "strikingly natural, exhibiting every muscular impression, and the swell of the heel and toes, with a precision and faithfulness to nature I have not been able to copy." His colleagues dismissed the tracks as Indian petroglyphs, but Schooleraft was convinced of their natural origin: They had been impressed, he carefully noted, not carved into the limestone. Whoever had made them, Schooleraft also commented, had been of average size: The foot lengths were 10 1/2 inches; width across the outspread toes were 4 inches; and the heels were 2 1/2 inches wide. The American Antiquarian, volume 7, pages 364-367 (1885) gave the account of another find associated with the St. Louis footprints that is perhaps even more disturbing. Quoting from Priest's "American Antiquities," a particular set of tracks was described in detail. Then, "directly before the prints of these feet, within a few inches, is a well-impressed and deep mark, having some resemblance to a scroll, or roll of parchment, two feet long by a foot in width." The squared impression was not a natural shape; neither were there scratch marks that would have indicated the patch had been carved. Rather, the evidence points to the parchment impression having been made when the rock was still in a plastic state - made at the same time as the footprints. What such a find suggests is that the prints' owners were not only men, but were men with the intelligence to produce some form of paper sheet - and perhaps write upon it. But as if this were not enough of a

mystery, the limestone in which prints and paper appear, is dated to the Mississippian age - 345 million years ago.
Montana; In Montana in 1903, Montana, Professor S. Farr unearthed the skeleton of a man about nine feet long. 10.
Next to him laid the bones of a woman, who had been almost as tall.
Early in November of 1926, archaeologist J.C.F. Siegfriedt made a discovery in another mine, this one the Number Three shaft of the Mutual Coal Mine of Bear Creek, 55 miles southwest of Billings, Montana. What Siegfriedt found was a human tooth, in which the enamel had been replaced by carbon and the roots by iron, by seepage petrification. In an account published in the Carbon County News and dated November 11, 1926, Siegfriedt reported that he had meticulously preserved the mineral matrix that had been deposited around the tooth, and several dentists identified the mold created as being a human second lower molar. The tooth, however, came from the lower level of the mine - from an Eocene deposit dated at 30 million years old. Siegfriedt could generate no interest in his find among other specialists, and as far as is known, no one has done any further study of the mystery.
* From Loren Coleman WNDU-TV South Bend, Indiana; August 5, 2005 Could Bigfoot be lurking in Indiana? Story filed by NewsCenter 16 Reporter Robert Borrelli
North Webster, IN - Could the legendary phenomenon Bigfoot be lurking in Kosciusko County? One man believes it could be, even though he's never seen it himself. Bigfoot, sometimes called Sasquatch, is the substance of legends, just not normally in Indiana. However, the stories told about what's been seen will make you wonder.
First sighting Mike Bardlsey's son first encountered "it" in mid-2003 near the family's North Webster home. They shined the flashlight on it and saw that it was really big and furry, says Bardsley. That's when they started realizing there's legs on this end of it, and it's a big body and that's when it started to put its arm down and push itself up. They just turned around and ran straight back to the trailer!"
Then, several months later, his son and two friends saw something in nearby wetlands. "It stands up in place, reveals this completely large hairy silhouette, said Bardsley. They clearly stood there and saw what they described to be in the 8-foot range, large shoulder, muscular build the long arms at the side, but in that instant that it stood up, it turned on its heels and ran due east out of their range. "Mike Bardsley has never seen it himself, but others have. His search is now a full-time hobby. "If Sasquatch does not exist, than what are thousands of people seeing?" asks Bardsley. Plaster of Paris is always on-hand to record footprints Bardsley has set-up his own

website, Indiana Bigfoot Awareness Group, and solicits other sightings. Bardsley knows not everyone thinks he's sane in his quest to know more about Bigfoot, he'd just like to know if there's anybody else out there who's had similar sightings. "I wanna' see if I can find anybody else who's had one like it, says Bardsley. It turns out in this county alone, there have probably been in the last few decades upwards of a dozen."
A few laughs. Bardsley says he does get laughed-at a bit but a few who've laughed, also admit they've heard stories from friends who say they've seen similar hairycreatures.
* From Craig Woolheater,
Constant Sasquatch watch held in Honobia
By Ron Jackson, The Oklahoman, August 7, 2005
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HONOBIA - The stories are as alluring as the Kiamichi Mountains from which they spring. Gigantic footprints embedded in the soil. Unfamiliar moans and shrills emanating from the forest. Hairy, ape-like creatures darting across remote creeks and roads.Such accounts are wild
told by seasoned woodsmen, reared on a lifetime of stalking game in the mountain ranges that surround their homes. Such accounts also are told by second- andthird-generation loggers who are as hardened and rugged as the terrain they work. Most, but not all, are reluctant to share their experiences. No one wants to be ridiculed for relating the unexplained things they have seen or heard. So, few admit they have encountered Bigfoot. And yet stories of close encounters with this legendary creature keep tumbling into themountain hideaway of Honobia like a never-ending rockslide.
"There is something out there," said Harold Yates, a Honobia resident who retired last week after 30 years with the state Forestry Services. "I don't know what it is, but something is definitely out there." Yates hears the stories frequently from neighbors who trust he won't laugh at their accounts. Yates would never think of laughing. He is still puzzled by experiences he had five years ago while building a log cabin on Little River, a main waterway that snakesthrough the valley cradling Honobia. One day Yates was cutting planks on his saw, listening to the piercing sound of wood colliding with a saw blade. He says that's when he heard a creature seemingly answer him in a deafening sound that mocked his sawing.
On another occasion, in the stillness of night, Yates heard large rocks being slammed into the river below his cabin. The crashing sound continued for 40 minutes and unnerved his family. "I don't know what could have made

those sounds," said the soft-spoken Yates, 51. "That's the trouble. I don't know anything that can make those noises. "I know a bear can't."

Logger Randall Wright, 43, tells of tracks he saw in the woods: "They were 154 inches long, 7 inches wide - with five toes.""I know Bigfoot is out there," said Wright, born and raised in Honobia. Whispering, Wright adds with a devilish grin, "And if I see it, I'm going to shoot it, too." Wright is serious. He carries a loaded rifle in his truck at all times. Yates is left with speculation and wonder. He is far from alone in a valley where Bigfoot sightings and strange experiences also have been reported in the neighboring communities of Nashoba, Octavia, Ludlow and Watson.

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which maintains a national database of purported sightings, has collected 58 such testimonials in Oklahoma since 1971. Nineteen of those eyewitness accounts came from the Kiamichi Mountains, which encompasses vast stretches of timberland in parts of Le Flore, Pushmataha and McCurtain counties.

Honobia sits on the Le Flore-Pushmataha county line-literally."On one side of the street is Pushmataha County," explained Honobia's postmaster Karen Pierce, 41. "Cross the street and you're in Le Flore County. Funny, huh? ... But I love it here. It's so beautiful."

Honobia is nestled in the heart of the Honobia Creek Wildlife Management Area, which includes 130,000 acres of commercial timberland thick with cedar, oak, box elder, and pinetrees. Wild hogs, bear, deer, and panthers are

some of the animals that roam its rugged terrain. The land is owned by two private forest investment companies - the Hancock Natural Resources Group and Renewable Resources, LLC. - and is managed by the State Wildlife Conservation Department in a unique partnership. The vastness of the forest is mindboggling; remote enough for a man to wander into and disappear forever. Or, as some would claim, immense enough for an unknown species to live with virtually no detection.

A Bigfoot shooting? Honobia's stature as Bigfoot territory grew in January 2000 when a local woodsman named Tim Humphreys claimed he shot at a Bigfoot in the woods behind his home. Humphreys' encounter was documented by the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, which sent investigators to interview Humphreys and set up a surveillance at his home. Investigators learned the shooting culminated two years of alleged terror by "at least one Bigfoot," which had been prowling his property at night. The avid Honobia hunter said the creature was stealing deer meat from an Outbuilding freezer. As time passed, the creature became

bolder by tapping on windows and Even jiggling doorknobs. "Tim and his family were genuinely terrified by this Bigfoot," said Wright, the logger. "And I have no reason not to believe him... He saw it and he was armed to the teeth. He had loaded guns on the porch and in the house everywhere. He had floodlights all around his house. "He had just had enough.'

Humphreys told investigators he shined a light into the face of a charging Bigfoot and fired his assault rifle at the massive creature from 70 yards away. The Bigfoot retreated into the woods and cut loose with eerie wails. Soon, similar sounds were coming from other nearby creatures. 'Tim told me they were talking to each other in all kinds of grunts and gibberish," Wright said. "Tim said he was afraid to run in there after it. The next morning I went to the spot where the Bigfoot ran and I personally saw blood splattered on trees 9 feet high for about 200 yards. That's where it was carried away by two other Bigfoots.

"A logger told Tim later he was driving down the road with his truck when he saw two of these creatures carrying a third one across the road. He turned his truck around six times on that road because he couldn't believe what he was seeing." The logger, like much of the physical evidence from that night, disappeared. A heavy rain the next day washed away any traces of blood, and Bigfoot investigators found nothing more than a mutilated deer in the vicinity where the Bigfoot supposedly fell. Even the Humphreys vanished abruptly, leaving refrigerated food and furniture in their wake.Neighbors tell conflicting stories about the family's whereabouts.

"Tim just grew tired of people laughing and he quit talking," said Charla Wright, Randall's wife. "I know this: Tim's wife was terrified and she wouldn't go back to that home after what she saw. And I believe her. I believe they saw a Bigfoot."

Television media crews and print journalists soon began appearing in Honobia, leaving a legacy of their own with campy or playful reports that made locals feel embarrassed.

"People will make fun of you," Yates explained. "I know I'll never go on camera again.

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A legacy of encounters. The sensational ordeal told by the Humphreys actually was a new twist on an old story around Honobia, where Bigfoot sightings date back hundreds of years. Choctaw elders who lived in the region have been telling legends of mammoth, hairy creatures roaming the Kiamichi Mountains for generations.

Charlene Cusher, a Choctaw from nearby Watson,

remembered hearing one such story from her grandparents. They spoke of a little boy who wandered into the forest and got lost.
"When they found the boy he was fine," said Cusher, 54. "He said 'that thing' took care of him, referring to the creature... As for me, I'd have to see it to believe it were true."
Fellow Choctaw Billy Ludlow of Honobia became a staunch believer in Bigfoot 54 years ago at age 11 when he encountered a gigantic, bipedal creature on Little River. Ludlow and two playmates were goofing around one Sunday night after church when they heard metal beams snapping on the unfinished bridge above. "I looked up and saw this large, hairy animal stand up on two legs like a man," said Ludlow, 65. "I'd guess it to be 9 or 10 feet tall with broad shoulders and hair all over. I was always the slowest runner among my friends. But on that night, I was the fastest." "We ran to my grandmother's cabin and slammed the door shut. It was chasing us. Something came and pushed the door two or three times, and then went away. I know they are out there."
The proof? Proof of Bigfoot's existence in these mountains - or at least proof of an unknown animal -might be on the way. Ludlow hunter Odell Rose recently collected a fistful of fine, woolly brown hair on a tree he couldn't match to any known animals in the region. The foul-smelling hair intrigued Rose so much he has sent it to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization for DNA testing. Rose, 65, said he doesn't believe in Bigfoot. "Odell and I have lived up here for 20 years," said LaVelle Rose, 53. "We used to ride mules and horses all over these mountains, and we've never seen anything like a Bigfoot. My husband is one of those hard-core people who doesn't believe in much. He's from the old school. "But he's never seen any hair like this before. He'd like to know what it is." Rose laughed, "Maybe it is Bigfoot hair."
* From Craig Woolheater
Remote town celebrates Bigfoot, By Ron Jackson
The Oklahoman, Remote town celebrates Bigfoot
August 7, 2005. HONOBIA - Katie Cogburn doesn't believe in Bigfoot. She believes in Honobia. So when the concept of a fall festival popped up for discussion, Cogburn didn't hesitate in throwing her support behind a Bigfoot-themed event. Hence the birth of the Bigfoot Fall Festival, to be held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 in Honobia. "We knew there would be a lot of interest in Bigfoot by a lot of outside people," said Cogburn, 67, a retired nurse who serves as vice president of the newly formed Honobia Bigfoot Organization Inc. "We've seen that interest already from all the people who come down here looking for Bigfoot," she said. "We just thought we would capitalize on that impression people have of this place."

The event promises to be something unique in this community of 350 people. Visitors can hear Bigfoot stories and embark on Bigfoot site tours. There also will be an opportunity to take a picture with a "real Bigfoot." "Some of the locals are against the festival because they think it makes us all look like a bunch of hicks," said Honobia postmaster Karen Pierce, 41, the organization's president. "But we're not asking people to become believers in Bigfoot. We're just saying that whether you believe or not, you can still have fun. "And what isn't fun about a Bigfoot festival?" For more information about the festival, call [AD] (580) 244-3292.

* From Craig Woolheater

Bigfoot's Lemonade Stand Closed Due To Health Violations By Kris (tongue in cheek)

Briceland, CA - Every summer for the past fifteen years, the self-proclaimed "Missing Link" travels from his nearby home in Bluff Creek and setups up a small lemonade stand in the town of Briceland, California. Children delight at his tales of wilderness adventure, then quench their thirst with his 15 cent-a-cup lemonade, prices that have stayed relatively low despite years of inflation. Sadly though, this yearly tradition has come to an end due to local Health Department regulations. "Not surprisingly, we tested the lemonade and found multiple strands of thick brown hair in it," said Health Department sanitarian Jacob Helms. "Additionally, we found multiple diseases, bacteria, and what appeared to be the remains of a small rodent. "Reports indicate that not only did Bigfoot not wear a hairnet while making and serving the lemonade, he also handled the lemons without gloves and without sanitizing his hands.

"Bigfoot is dirty," said Helms. "Really, really dirty. And so is his lemonade. "For these reasons, and the general terror the parents of the town children experience when they realized that their children were spending time with an 8 foot-tall fictitious beast who could eat their children whole, lead to the Health Department closing Bigfoot's stand.

"I just wanted to give something back to the children who have done little to nothing to help my cause, whatever that cause might be," said a very sad Bigfoot. He then proceeded to flip over a car, eat two small children, urinate on a fire hydrant, and run back into the woods.

Children that were served from Bigfoot's stand have been quarantined and are being tested for rabies, syphilis, whooping cough, polio, crabs, and various other infections and parasites. Those that are found to be contaminated will be sent to Alabama where no one will ever notice.

Briceland Health Department is not satisfied with just stopping one mythical creature's attempts to sell goods to children and they will continue to work vigilantly to stop

all creatures that may or may not be real from peddling their goods if they do not follow proper food safety procedures.
"We've got reports of the Lockness Monster selling ice-cream that may be expired on fourth street and the Easter Bunny is handling hotdogs with his bare paws over on Main," said Helms as he began to walk away. "A health sanitarian's work is never done."
Artist's rendition of what Bigfoot's lemonade stand may have looked like. (picture was in last issue)
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* From Craig Woolheater :Tall, dark and ugly, Phil Daoust, August 3, 2005; The Guardian. Deep in the forests of North America, if the stories are to be believed, lives a breed of hairy giants known as bigfoot. In 1784 newspapers reported the capture of a "huge, manlike, hair-covered" beast in Manitoba, but native Americans and European settlers had long told of encounters with fearsome-looking apes. Modern cryptozoologists, who study improbable creatures, believe there may be 6,000 of them. Most people would prefer to keep such animals at a safe distance, but not Jill Miller. For her latest project, Waiting for Bigfoot, the San Francisco artist has pitched a tent in a remote part of northern California, and surrounded her campsite with fruit, to which her quarry are said to be partial. Hidden in the woods are cameras, transmitting pictures to Britain's Norwich Gallery and a website, waitingforbigfoot.com. Four weeks into this "durational performance-installation", there have been no sightings - but some tantalizing hints. Miller's blog (bigfootbasecamp.blog.spot.com) tells of strange noises, branches breaking in the night and mysterious droppings. Although she notes that they were not made by humans, dogs or horses, she writes: "I am not accustomed to handling bear feces, so I can't rule that out." Further analysis may at least answer the age-old question about what bears do in the woods.
Does Miller actually expect to meet a tall, shaggy stranger? "I believe that we don't have every animal on this planet documented," she says. But this is notabout monster-hunting: "A cryptozoologist goes into the forest with the intention of achieving results. As an artist, I go into the forest without any expectations or intentions. Waiting, and what we discover in the process of waiting, is enough. This is the art."
* From the Lakeside Leader (Slave Lake, Alberta): 9 Aug. 2005' Wihtikow' legend comes back to life, Joe McWilliams
You might say Nathan Carlson has a possession obsession, with a keen interest in cannibalism on the side. The University of Alberta Native Studies student is doing a

research project on the wihtikow (also known as "whetigo" and "wendigo") the evil spirit said to have haunted northern forests in former times.

There are still people in Slave Lake who heard stories about such spirit possession from their grandparents. In them, a person possessed by the evil spirit would turn to cannibalism. He could only be stopped by someone with stronger medicine (magical or spiritual power), or by decapitation. Having perused the historical record, Carlson has found that Lesser Slave Lake area had its share of wihtikow stories. "Lesser Slave Lake seems to be a 'hot spot' of wihtikow activity," he said in an e-mail to The Leader last week. "I have heard of two cases happening at Mitsue Lake, both involving cannibalism."

It is fairly widely accepted locally that Mitsue (a Cree word meaning "eating") got its name because of incidents of cannibalism that Happened there in the latter part of the 1800s. Leo and William Giroux of Slave Lake confirmed that in an interview for a story on wihtikow that appeared in The Leader on Jan. 8, 1992.

The Giroux brothers said that the person possessed by wihtikow could be cured, but once they?d eaten someone, it was too late.

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"A wihtikow would kill a whole camp and stay there till he ate up everyone," said William.

There don't seem to be any written records of the Mitsue area wihtikow activity. At least Carlson hasn't found any, although he mentions the story in his thesis. But one of the more famous cases, for which there are official records, happened at or near the present townsite of Slave Lake in the summer of 1887.

"A woman by the name of Marie Courtoreille apparently turned wihtikow, and to prevent her from committing murder and cannibalism, she, herself, was executed by her husband and stepson."

The two men were tried at Ft. Saskatchewan and received sentences of six years each.

A case at Trout Lake is also on the books. Here's what Carlson says in his thesis:

"In 1896 a man traveling through the woods with his family reported having a strange vision of a creature that apparently made him insane. He and the villagers believed he'd turned into a windigo and as his condition worsened, he was locked in a cabin. One eyewitness, a fur trader from Scotland, stated that he hardly looked like a human being at one point. The man was eventually executed by the frightened villagers, and huge logs were piled on his grave to make sure he couldn't come back to life, as he had vowed to do unless a priest came to the village within three days. Strangely enough a priest did arrive, apparently the

first ever in that area, and found all the villagers huddled in a shack, fearing for their lives."
It was this incident that Carlson heard about from his grandmother, leading to his decision to investigate it in his university studies. His research has turned up 35 such cases, although only one of them documented actual cannibalism. A man was convicted of killing and eating his wife and five children near Athabasca Landing and was hanged at Ft. Saskatchewan in 1879.
Carlson says he'd like to publish his findings on the matter in an academic journal or as a book, or both.
* From Michael Newton; From the Record Searchlight (Redding, CA): 11 Aug. 2005 Expedition casts wide Net for Bigfoot By Alex Breitler, Record Searchlight
HAPPY CAMP - Tom Biscardi is on the hunt for Bigfoot, and you're invited to join him. For a fee, that is. The controversial Sasquatch sleuth has embarked on yet another expedition, this time in western Siskiyou County where a flurry of sightings has been reported in recent weeks. This time, Biscardi is broadcasting his search on the Internet, saying he hopes to bring viewers around the world a genuine Bigfoot encounter -- like the one he claimed to have had near Burney earlier this year. Happy Camp has mixed feelings about this Bigfoot business. Some boldly back Biscardi while others skewer him for inviting ridicule into their community.
"There's the old-timers that are saying, Yeah, there's something up here,'" said Vickie Schmalzbach, who owns JavaBobs Bigfoot Deli with her husband, Bob. "And then there's the group that says, Oh, brother.'"
Three cameras are documenting the 90-day expedition around the clock. The cost to viewers is $14.95 for a seven-day pass and $59.95 for all 90 days. Biscardi, a former show producer from Las Vegas, said he's been exploring the woods since Saturday. Braving triple-digit
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temperatures and swarms of mosquitoes, he's been busy clearing brush, positioning cameras and riding ATVs along what he believes to be a Bigfoot migration route. He said he thinks two creatures living in the area are responsible for recent sightings, at least two of which involved motorists on Highway 96. "We're very, very close,' Biscardi said last week. "This is one of the hottest areas I've ever seen in my life."
Besides footage from his jaunts through the woods, the video feeds also feature locals sharing breathless accounts of Bigfoot encounters, re-enactments of those sightings and interviews with primate experts, Biscardi said. Why charge the viewing public? Biscardi pegs the cost of the

expedition at about $400,000 so far. He said he needs the money to pay his 16-member crew and to purchase the equipment needed to hunt the beast and broadcast the adventure. "This stuff didn't cost 20 cents," he said. Biscardi, 57, has made ambitious plans to track and even capture Bigfoot in the past, including the use of net grenade launchers or even "sleep bombs" that would be dropped on the creature from the air. This time he has a "secret weapon" that he won't discuss. He will say that his broadcast has more than 40,000 subscribers, some from as far away as Ireland, Russia and Poland. Many likely found out about Biscardi's mission during recent coast-to-coast radio broadcasts.

He has already gained some notoriety for claims that he's spotted Bigfoot five times in more than three decades of searching.

Back in Happy Camp, some residents say their town shouldn't embrace the expedition, arguing it promotes the region for the wrong reasons. On Tuesday, a television news crew from the San Francisco Bay area toured the area with Biscardi.

"Those in town supporting this idea that Bigfoot exists are doing it simply to make money," wrote John Goodwin in a recent letter to the online Happy Camp News. "Guess what? Happy Camp looks ridiculous as a result."

Even some Bigfoot believers say Biscardi is a big faker. "It's the phoniest thing I've ever heard of in my life," said longtime Bigfoot enthusiast John Green. Green, who lives in British Columbia, won't be subscribing to the pay-per-view service. "It's just a scam," he said Tuesday. "I don't think he(Biscardi) is even interested in looking for Bigfoot." Green's skepticism is rooted in the fact that Biscardi has ties to Ivan Marx, a Burney hunting guide who claimed to catch Bigfoot on film in 1970. The film was later deemed a hoax.

But Bob Schmalzbach -- whose deli offers "sandwiches that can satisfy Sasquatch" -- says Biscardi seems to be on the level. Heck, the 56-year-old Schmalzbach has joined in the search. His deli serves as headquarters and has become a clearinghouse of Bigfoot info, offering a place for residents to share their sightings in secrecy.

Happy Camp, population 1,100, hosts a Bigfoot Jamboree each Labor Day. "We have statues of Bigfoot," Schmalzbach said. "Everything's Bigfoot this, Bigfoot that." But Schmalzbach guesses many residents who've seen the mythical monster don't want to come forward. Biscardi said he hopes to add to Happy Camp's legacy. Folks can sign up for the Bigfoot broadcasts on his Web site.

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Buyers, beware. The fine print offers this unusual disclaimer: "This subscription does not guarantee that you

will personally witness a Bigfoot encounter." On the Net, For more information about Tom Biscardi and his pay-per-view Bigfoot operation, visit www.findingbigfoot.com.

* JUDE WEBBER, Nephilim's Paranormal Investigations, Posted online: LIMA, PERU, OCTOBER 5: One minute Jonathan Reed was hiking with his golden retriever in a forest in Seattle. The next, his pet was being torn apart by a "gray" an alien being with an elongated head, smelling of rotting fruit.

A scene from a sci-fi film? No, maintains Reed, a former child-developmental psychologist who says he took the alien home and lived with it for nine days in which it communicated via telepathy and was able to pull thoughts from his mind.

* From Craig Woolheater August 14, 2005 Some Texans claim Bigfoot is among us By RICK SMITH, Staff Writer San Angelo (TX) Standard Times

Since 1977, the giant, hair-covered, foul-smelling, gorilla-like creature has been spotted in West Texas at least seven times, according to a small group of dedicated investigators.

You don't believe an 8-foot-tall creature is roaming the mesquite pastures and cotton fields of West Texas?

"Seeing is believing," said Craig Woolheater. Craig is director of Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center. The 6-year-old organization investigates sightings of the mysterious creature, which is also known as sasquatch.

Craig said they have confirmed seven Bigfoot sightings in West Texas from 1977 through 2001. Locations range from the Davis Mountains to San Angelo State Park and include Eldorado, Pecos County, Big Spring, Garden City and the Spence Reservoir area near Robert Lee.

According to reports, the creatures have thrown rocks at fishermen, stalked a horse rider, peered into homes and frightened motorists.

"I've never been spooked like that before or since," one witness told an investigator from the Dallas research group. But don't panic. "We're not dealing with a monster, a missing link or an extraterrestrial," Craig said. "What we're looking for is a flesh-and-blood primate.'

Scientists have not found any proof that such a creature exists, but university researchers aren't exactly out beating the bushes looking for evidence, Craig said. "Mainstream scientists don't want anything to do with it," he said. "They'd be risking their careers by sticking their necks out. "It's the amateur scientists who are out there, trying to solve the mystery."

Craig said his group receives about 150 reports of sightings a year, most from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. He said volunteer investigators, including some law enforcement and ex-military personnel, interview

witnesses and gather evidence. Some of the reported sightings "are bogus - obvious jokes," Craig said. Those are disregarded. But if reports check out, they're published on the group's Web site, www.texasbigfoot.com. While most of the Texas sightings occur in the eastern half of the state, Craig said, the creatures also seem to follow the Colorado River and its tributaries into West Texas. Area

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sightings the group has confirmed include: Near Big Spring, August 1996 - A man whose family lives out in the country 5 miles east of town was awakened by the sound of barking dogs about midnight and discovered an 8-foot-tall creature peering in the kitchen window. "While I was loading the rifle, we heard a loud, weird howling sound come from the back yard, which finally got me moving as I thought it would be coming in the house next."
Imperial, in Pecos County, February 2000 - Two people spotted "a large, hairy creature" while hunting rabbits. One witness said the beast was "unlike anything I have ever seen before," and it "stood upright like a person, but was not a person."
Eldorado, late summer or early fall, 1990 - A 5-year-old boy awoke in the night and saw something hunched over and staring at him through a window. The creature bared its teeth, and the child screamed for his mother.
Jeff Davis County, northeast of Marfa, October 1977 - Three men driving to Midland spotted a creature alongside a two-lane highway.
"It had a very large head, large eyes and very long, thick hair," one told an investigator. "The body was covered with thick, matted hair. It stood with a stoop, and the arms were very long. There was a very strong smell like garbage.'
San Angelo State Park, October 1986 - A woman was riding her horse near a ridge when she spotted a large creature in the bushes. "It was very dark and scared me to death," she told an investigator. She said it was covered with hair.
Glasscock County, 10 miles northeast of Garden City, July 2001 A man, his mother and two nephews were hunting rattlesnakes when they spotted a couple of the creatures moving in a caliche pit. "They were big and dark," the man reported.
Above Spence Reservoir, in Coke County, the fall of 1988 or '89 Two men were fishing under the Colorado River bridge on Farm Road 2059 after dark when they had a close encounter with something that roared at them, threw rocks, then seemed to chase them to their pickup. "I've never returned to that spot because it scared me," one

fisherman told the investigator. "Problem is, it's some great fishing."
Scoff if you must, but Craig said he's convinced Bigfoot exists. "If only one of the people we've talked to is telling the truth, then there's something out there," he said. "There is certainly a mystery, and we're trying our best to get to the bottom of it."
His advice for Bigfoot-seeking West Texans?
"Driving late at night on rural roads, keep your eyes peeled. You may be rounding a bend and see one standing on the side of the highway or cutting across the road. "And that will make you believe."
Whom to call: Texas Bigfoot Research Center.
What: Dallas-based group that investigates Bigfoot sightings. What else: The group also sponsors research projects and holds an annual conference in October in Jefferson. Information: www.texasbigfoot.com or (877) [AD] 529-5550.
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* From Michael Newton; New Bigfoot museum
From the San Francisco Chronicle: 14 Aug. 2005; Forest of mystery; New Bigfoot museum joins Mystery Spot near Santa Cruz Christine Delsol, Chronicle Staff Writer
Felton, -- Santa Cruz County; It's hard to explain why I had to go to the Bigfoot museum. It could be all those twilight drives with my grandparents as a child, taking to Northern California's back roads to spot white deer (success rate: 50 percent) and "maybe even Bigfoot" (success rate: zip). Just as likely, it was a reason to drive through the Santa Cruz Mountains on a glorious summer weekend. Yes, that's the Santa Cruz Mountains, not the Siskiyous or the Trinity Alps. The northern counties are famous for Bigfoot reports, but Michael Rugg, who began researching huge, hairy bipeds after western newspapers ran the first photos of abominable snowman tracks on Mount Everest in 1951, happens to live in Felton. Rugg knew when he decided to turn his former arts and crafts studio into a museum that the area had generated numerous reports of Bigfoot encounters up until the 1980s. When he began working on the museum, he heard of numerous recent sightings there was one in Boulder Creek a week before my visit last month.
Sunlight strobed through redwood boughs as we drove past forested mountain panoramas burnished by golden monkey flowers and sprinkled with blooming buckeye. Except for the landscape's tendency to slide onto homes during prolonged rainstorms, these woods don't seem especially mysterious until you consider that the Mystery Spot, whose unexplained phenomena have lured droves of the skeptical and the curious for 55 years, is just 9 country miles from Felton's new Bigfoot Discovery Museum. The museum's entrance, on Highway 9 across from Henry

Cowell Redwoods State Park, is a shrine to kitsch, displaying board games, Sasquatch beer and magazines, including the Weekly World News' incomparable headline, "World's First Bigfoot Hooker Tells All!" The back room is Rugg's domain. In two hours of conversation among the artifacts and books, he came across as a rational, open-minded man who majored in art at Stanford and abandoned a second major in paleoanthropology because he was promised a failing grade if he researched Bigfoot. He has since been a folk artist, dulcimer maker, performer, digital graphic artist and, since last summer, museum curator. While not buying in to the hoaxes, he argues persuasively that a creature found throughout American Indian history and reported by settlers since the early 1800s warrants further investigation. "Bigfoot was not created by a clever Chinese taxidermist," Rugg says, referring to European naturalists' dismissal when a duckbilled platypus was first presented to them in the late 1700s. His evidence is in the footprint and bone casts, the DNA analyses, the academics who set out to debunk the legends and became believers, the eyewitness reports -- including a Tennessee farm family who says a Bigfoot family has lived on their property since 1947. Of the local sightings, an impressive number come from just up the canyon around Zayante, the first settlement in these mountains. Most dramatic is a digital analysis of the controversial 1967 Patterson/Gimlin film, shot in Humboldt County, of what appears to be a female Bigfoot with an injured thigh. Though still unaccepted by most mainstream scientists, the enhanced film reveals details of

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the peculiar gait - veering out from the hip, calf rising parallel to the ground - that would seem all but impossible for a man in a gorilla suit. I tried to duplicate the Bigfoot walk and nearly crashed into a glass case of plaster casts. The museum won't necessarily turn skeptics into believers, but it will give them something new to chew on. It certainly added a different perspective when my boyfriend, Ken, and I retreated for the night to the Felton Crest Inn, in the hills above town. With redwood branches brushing picture windows on two sides, our room could have been a cave in the woods rather than quarters in an elegant, two-story home. While Ken dozed on the deck, I followed a trail through the trees. Dusk quickly became night in the forest, and I turned back without getting very far up the steep hillside. The most alarming creature I encountered in the waning light was a banana slug. There was no question of leaving the area without stopping at the Mystery Spot, a 1950s-style roadside attraction where, as the slogan goes,

The Laws of Physics Do Not Apply. Within this 150-foot-diameter circle, balls roll uphill and people appear to tilt, grow and shrink.

Following Sean, our wise-cracking guide, up an ostensibly modest hill left me panting and my heartbeat pounding in my ears. I watched six people stand in order, from 6 feet 2 to 5 feet 2, then switch places and appear to be all the same height. Numerous scientific explanations have countered the theories of buried UFOs or asteroids. In 1998, a UC Berkeley psychology professor determined that it's all perceptual illusion, magnified because both the body and the surroundings are tilted. I think I believe the professor, though I'm not sure how his theory explains all the trees bowing in toward the Mystery Spot. More important, I don't care. All weekend, these mountains raised cosmic questions that never tease my brain during days filled with commute traffic, housework and unpaid bills. The answers may forever remain a mystery, but I'm confident none of them involve Chinese taxidermists.

If you go; Getting there; Felton is 1 1/2 hours from San Francisco or Oakland, taking Highway 17 toward Santa Cruz and exiting on Mount Hermon Road. For a slower but more scenic route, take Highway 92 to Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) south, veering right to Highway 9 at the Big Basin turnoff.

What to do; Bigfoot Discovery Museum, 5497 Highway 9, [AD] Felton. (831) 335-4478, www.bigfootdiscovery project.com. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m. -7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday and closed Tuesdays. Free; donations welcome.

Mystery Spot, 465 Mystery Spot Road, Santa Cruz. (831) [AD] 423-8897,www.mysteryspot.com. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily. Adults $5; children under 3 free.

For more information; Santa Cruz County Conference [AD] and Visitors Council, (800) 833-3494 or (831) 425-1234, www.santacruzca.org.

* Dear Ray!

Two remarks on cryptozoology.

1. July 2005 I was in Singapore. Singa - lion, pore - city. I am biologist and I know that lions were absent in this area. According to tale, Indonesia prince Shri Thri Boana visited this island 1297 and saw lion. Hence he found "city of lion". I worked in archive in Singapore museums and found original text of tale. Prince saw animal «<looking like lion>>.

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It had a dark head, white spot at breast and red-and-yellow body. Such a pattern of color is real for cats. According to N.Vavilow law, close species have close pattern of colors, but in different frequency. Island little populations have more number of abnormal morphs than big populations. The probability of tiger without bars is about 1 per 10 000 in continent population and more in island population. I

am sure, that Indonesia prince saw rare morph of tiger.
2. Many years we looking for Bigfoot without real progress. The ways toward progress are two. The first of them is philosophy of biological dualism. Male - female, social-wildman. The second way must be based biological, man-
on theoretical physics. Great Russian scientist prof. [AD] N.Kozyrev (1908-1983) (imager in last issue) suggested a new physical field. He wrote that elecrto-magnetic and gravitation fields space is united by time field. This field support translation of information in space and time with unlimited speed. This field support getting information from future but under approximal condition. People are able to predict, but not at absolute manner. It is significant fact, that ships and planes that will get to tragic catastrophe have less passengers. Animal have more possibility to predict. I was in Italy, Pompei and know that catastrophe of 1 century killed many people, but now stains of animals were found. Winter 2004 - 2005 great tsunami killed about 1 000 000 people in Indonesia, but all animals left dangeous places. I got information from specialist taking part in nuclear bombs experienced. They told that animal ran away from place of bomb explosions.
Hence, man can predict in little scale. Animal are able to predict in bigger scale. Bigfoot is able to contact with Kozyrev field and predict in maximal (not absolute - the whole prediction is impossible) scale. It is case of its elusively. Its contacts with Kozyrev field may consider it as special level of matter organization. We are biological-and-social forms. Wildman is biological-and-phychophysical form. Hence, progress in theoretical physics is needful for BF study. Best regards. Valentin Sapunov
* From Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>
WLWT-TV, Channel 5 (Cincinnati, OH): 22 Aug. 2005
Scream Baffles Ohio Town
LIBERTY, Ohio -- An unusual and noisy mystery has people in a small town north of Middletown on edge, worried and asking questions, News 5's Brian Hamrick reported. Liberty, Ohio, is a quiet little community, except for one thing - the scream.
Jamie Young told Hamrick she heard it while she and her husband were walking one evening. "It scared me. I didn't want to finish my walk," Young said. But instead of running into her house, she said she recorded the noise and sent a tape to the local newspaper. With a sensitive microphone and some special ghost-hunting goggles, Hamrick went hunting for the haunting sounds, traipsing boldly into the most likely spots -- from a graveyard to an old church where flea market dealer Walt Wilson sells some truly frightening things. But he's not worried. "I don't think it's going to wind up grabbing any of us and running off with us," Wilson said.

Residents have no shortage of ideas about what's making the sound, from cats to owls to something even scarier. Townspeople said they called in an animal expert, who told them the noise didn't come from an animal.
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PHOTO BY DEBBIE HYCHA
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September 6-11, 2005.
Exhibition of finished sculptures
until October 10, 2005